

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas Endorsement Procedures

Revised 12/11/21

The Stonewall Democrats of Dallas (SDD) will hold endorsement screenings as soon as possible prior to elections. An Endorsement Committee, consisting of volunteer members in good standing, will meet to plan and execute each candidate screening. The Political Affairs Chair or a designated member will chair these meetings, endorsement screenings, and present the recommended endorsement slate to the general membership. The endorsement process will be conducted using these procedures and the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas by-laws. Meeting procedures not covered here or in the SDD by-laws will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Endorsement Committee

1. The purpose of the Endorsement Committee will be to:

- a) Send out invitations to candidates.
- b) Set up screening dates/times.
- c) Determine what questions will be asked on the questionnaire. If time doesn't permit a written questionnaire, the committee will prepare questions to be asked at the screening sessions.
- d) Set up reasonable time limits and procedures to be used during the screening sessions.
- e) Assist with tasks during the screening sessions.
- f) If it is determined an endorsed candidate acts in a way that harms or brings SDD in to repute, the matter will be directed to the Executive Board for discussion concerning appropriate action up to and including retraction of an endorsement. Such an action would require a 2/3 majority vote.

Candidate Questionnaires

- 1. Time permitting, the endorsement committee will prepare questionnaires to be sent to the candidates and returned prior to the endorsement screening session(s).
- 2. Questionnaires, once returned, will be placed in at least 1 binder and 2 to be available for review by the members at least 30 minutes before and during the screening session(s) and general meeting ratification. Additionally, if possible, at least 2 iPads will be made available for digital copies to the membership.

3. In a hybrid/virtual meeting, the questionnaire booklet will be made available via a shared Google doc link and posted to the website for review of the membership.

Candidates

1. All Democratic Candidates whose name appears on a ballot within Dallas County will be invited to a screening.

2. Non-Partisan candidates in non-partisan races will be invited to screen using rules set forth in the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas by-laws.

3. [Revised 12/20/19] Candidates' invitations will be emailed to the email address provided on the TX Secretary of State website upon filing, or email addresses provided directly to SDD. If no email address is provided, the Political Affairs committee will endeavor to connect with the candidate via the candidate's website, social media, etc.

Endorsement Screening

1. Members in good standing with dues paid 30 days prior to the screening date may participate in the screening sessions.

2. Members must sign in on a membership list which must contain the following affidavit (the affidavit should be attached to the membership list):

- a) "I am a member, in good standing, of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas (SDD) and understand that paid staff members of a candidate, candidates themselves, their representative(s), relatives, and significant others will not be allowed in the room during an opponent's speech and/or screening by the members. Paid staff of candidates, candidates themselves, their representatives, and significant others who are dues paying members of SDD will be allowed to return to the room to cast a vote."

3. Members must be at the screening session and present for all candidates in a race in order to vote for a candidate for endorsement recommendation.

4. No proxy voting will be allowed.

5. Candidate Literature – A table will be provided for candidate literature at each screening. Literature will be placed on the table and not handed to individuals during the screening meetings.

6. [Revised 12/20/19] - In federal races, a motion from the floor may be made to suspend the rules of an in-person candidate or their proxy. In this case, the Political Affairs team will have coordinated a video/telecoms option for the candidate or their staff to video/phone in.

7. Voting may be conducted after each race or at the end of the entire process. This will be decided by the Chair or Parliamentarian.

8. Candidates must win by a simple majority to be recommended for endorsement to the general membership. Members may abstain from voting in any race but only votes for candidates seeking endorsement in a particular race will be recorded and counted towards a simple majority determination. In the event of a runoff, 3 members will be allowed to speak about each candidate, in a time frame set by the committee, Political Director, or Parliamentarian, followed by a re-vote. In the event a candidate doesn't receive a simple majority in a runoff, the top two candidates will go into a runoff to be voted on by the screening committee. Co-Endorsements will be allowed only in the situation of a tie vote if a re-vote results in a second tie.

9. Co-Endorsements must be voted on separately at the ratification vote.

10. In the case of a pandemic or other unforeseen circumstances requiring a virtually held endorsement screening, proper accommodations will be made to host a screening in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth by the Endorsement Committee.

Ratification Vote

1. Members in good standing who wish to vote during the endorsement ratification must have been eligible to participate in the screening process. The membership list used to determine eligibility to participate in the screening process will be the same list used to determine eligibility to vote at the ratification meeting.

2. Endorsement recommendations by the screening committee will be presented to the general membership as a slate and voted on as a slate. With two exceptions: the official endorsement committee may decide after screening to separate a race from the slate with a majority vote. This should be rarely done and only with cause. Or, the executive board may separate a race from the slate if it finds cause and secures a two-thirds majority vote. Any separated races will be presented individually to membership. Races the screening committee has recommended as a "Co-Endorsement" will be presented to the membership separate from the rest of the slate.

3. If a motion is made at the ratification to break out a race(s) from the recommended slate, a 2/3 vote of those present voting members will be required to separate the race. Afterward a second simple majority vote will be held on that race to determine the endorsement winner.